

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for playing a wagering game having a special multi-level progressive payout with a first progressive jackpot and a second progressive jackpot, the method comprising:

conducting a basic game having a randomly selected outcome;

accepting a basic wager from the player to play the basic game;

presenting a side-wager option to a player, the side-wager option permitting the player to make a side-wager separate from the basic wager to be eligible for the special multi-level progressive payout;

contributing a first percentage of at least one of the wagers to the first progressive jackpot, wherein the first progressive jackpot has a value of at least a first reserve amount and contributing a second percentage of at least one of the wagers to the second progressive jackpot, wherein the second progressive jackpot has a value of at least a second reserve amount, the second reserve amount being higher than the first reserve amount and the second percentage being higher than the first percentage; and

in response to the player selecting the option to be eligible for the special multi-level progressive payout by making the side-wager separate from the basic wager, crediting the player the first progressive jackpot when a first randomly selected outcome occurs in the basic game and crediting the player the second progressive jackpot when a second randomly selected outcome occurs in the basic game.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising crediting the player a third progressive jackpot when a third randomly selected outcome occurs in the basic game.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first progressive jackpot is part of a bonus game.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the randomly selected outcome comprises a plurality of symbols.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of symbols is a card from a deck of playing cards.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the wagering game is a slot machine and each of the plurality of symbols is a reel symbol.
8. (Currently Amended) A method for playing a wagering game on a gaming terminal, the wagering game having a basic payout and a special multi-level progressive payout with a first progressive jackpot and a second progressive jackpot, the method comprising:
 - receiving a basic wager from a player;
 - presenting an option to the player to make a side-wager separate from the basic wager to be eligible for the progressive payout;
 - conducting a basic game having a plurality of symbols that indicate a randomly selected outcome of the basic game;
 - contributing a first percentage of at least one of the wagers to the first progressive jackpot, wherein the first progressive jackpot has a value of at least a first reserve amount and contributing a second percentage of at least one of the wagers to the second progressive jackpot, wherein the second progressive jackpot has a value of at least a second reserve amount, the second reserve amount being higher than the first reserve amount and the second percentage being higher than the first percentage
 - ~~if the player does not make the side-wager, awarding the basic payout when the randomly selected outcome is a triggering outcome; and~~

in response to the player making the side-wager to be eligible for the progressive payout, awarding the player the first progressive jackpot when a first randomly selected outcome occurs in the basic game and crediting the player the second progressive jackpot when a second randomly selected outcome occurs in the basic game ~~progressive payout when the randomly selected outcome is the triggering outcome in the basic game.~~

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the conducting step comprises choosing at least one of a plurality of paylines to play and choosing a wager amount for each of the plurality of paylines chosen.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the presenting step only occurs if all of the plurality of paylines are chosen.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the awarding step is performed by a controller in the gaming terminal.

12. (Currently Amended) A gaming system for playing a wagering game having a special multi-level progressive payout with a first progressive jackpot and a second progressive jackpot, the gaming system comprising a gaming terminal having a basic wager input device for permitting a player to make a basic wager for playing a basic game having a randomly selected outcome, the gaming terminal having a side-wager input device for permitting the player to make a side-wager separate from the basic wager, the side-wager allowing a player to be eligible to win the special multi-level progressive payout, the gaming system contributing a first percentage of at least one of the wagers to the first progressive jackpot, wherein the first progressive jackpot has a value of at least a first reserve amount and contributing a second percentage of at least one of the wagers to the second progressive jackpot, wherein the second progressive jackpot has a value of at least a second reserve amount, the second reserve amount being higher than the first reserve amount and the second percentage being higher than the first percentage, wherein, in response to activation of the side-wager input device, the gaming terminal credits the player the

first progressive jackpot when a first randomly selected outcome is achieved in the basic game and the gaming terminal credits the player the second progressive jackpot when a second randomly selected outcome is achieved in the basic game.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the first progressive jackpot is part of a bonus game.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the side-wager input device is a button or a key.

16. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the first and second randomly selected outcomes comprise a plurality of symbols.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein each of the plurality of symbols is a card from a deck of playing cards.

18. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the gaming terminal is a slot machine and each of the plurality of symbols is a standard slot machine symbol.

19. (Original) The gaming system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of gaming terminals for conducting wagering games, each of the plurality of gaming terminals having the side-wager input device.

20. (Original) The gaming system of claim 19, further comprising signage located above and coupled to the plurality of gaming terminals, the signage displaying the special payout and for receiving a signal from one of the plurality of gaming terminals that it is eligible to win a special payout.

21. (Original) The gaming system of claim 20, wherein the signage includes a signage controller for controlling an outcome of the special payout on one of the plurality of gaming terminals.

22. (Original) The gaming system of claim 21, wherein each of the plurality of gaming terminals includes a gaming terminal controller, the gaming terminal controller being in communication with the signage controller.

23. (Original) The gaming system of claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of gaming terminals are identical machines.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The gaming system of claim 19, wherein the first progressive jackpot is part of a bonus game.

26. (Currently Amended) A gaming terminal for playing a wagering game, comprising:
a basic game having a plurality of symbols that indicate a randomly selected outcome of the basic game;
a basic payout;
a multi-level progressive payout with a first progressive jackpot and a second progressive jackpot; and
an input device for allowing a player to make a basic wager to play the basic game and make a separate side-wager to become eligible for the progressive payout;
wherein, in response to the input device being activated, the gaming terminal contributes a first percentage of at least one of the wagers to the first progressive jackpot, wherein the first progressive jackpot has a value of at least a first reserve amount and contributes a second percentage of at least one of the wagers to the second progressive jackpot, wherein the second progressive jackpot has a value of at least a second reserve amount, the second reserve amount being higher than the first

reserve amount and the second percentage being higher than the first percentage;
and

wherein, in response to receiving a side-wager, the gaming terminal credits the player the
first progressive jackpot when a first randomly selected outcome occurs in the
basic game and credits the player the second progressive jackpot when a second
randomly selected outcome occurs in the basic game ~~awards the player the basic~~
~~payout when the randomly selected outcome is a triggering outcome and the~~
~~separate side wager is not made by the player and awards the player the~~
~~progressive payout when the randomly selected outcome is a triggering outcome~~
~~and the separate side wager is made by the player.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The gaming terminal of claim 26, wherein in response to receiving
a side-wager ~~the input device being activated~~, the gaming terminal awards the player a third
payout when a third ~~second~~ randomly selected outcome is achieved.